

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 21, 2017

The Honorable Heather Wilson
Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary Wilson:

Congratulations on your confirmation as the 24th Secretary of the Air Force. We look forward to working with you in support of the exceptional men and women of the U.S. Air Force who serve our great nation and we pledge our help in providing the resources you need to accomplish your critical national security mission.

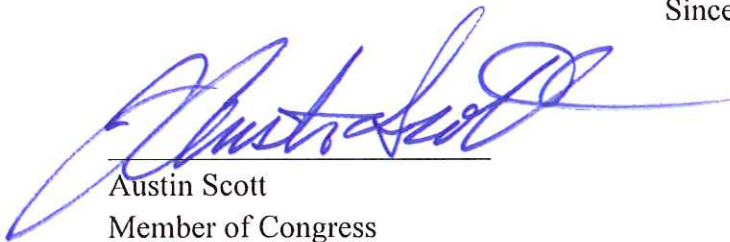
Georgia is the proud host of installations from all branches of military service that are crucial to our national and global security. Robins AFB, home of the E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS) mission, supported by both active duty and National Guardsmen, is one of those installations. We stand united behind Robins AFB and the unique and vital combat capacity the E-8C JSTARS aircraft provide to our warfighters.

We are very concerned, however, that the recapitalization of the existing E-8C aircraft will continue to be unnecessarily delayed despite repeated efforts by Congress to accelerate the acquisition of replacement aircraft to reduce the operational cost of the current legacy fleet and increase operational mission readiness. The current acquisition schedule will cause at least a one-year capability gap, and the Air Force will have fewer than 10 of these high-demand aircraft operationally available for nearly a decade.

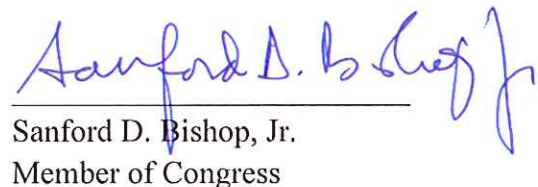
Every Combatant Commander says they need more JSTARS assets in their theater. Further delay in acquiring a lower-cost, more operationally-capable business jet platform is unacceptable. We look to your leadership to ensure that the JSTARS Recapitalization contract is awarded in October of this year as planned and that you consider all available options to accelerate the acquisition schedule.

Be assured you have our support in Congress to help you move the JSTARS recapitalization program forward.

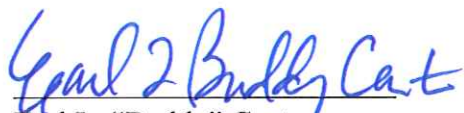
Sincerely,



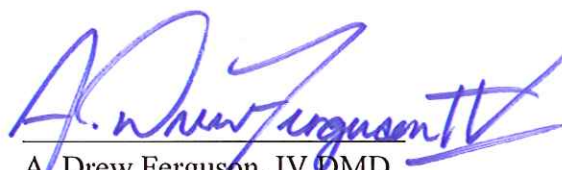
Austin Scott
Member of Congress



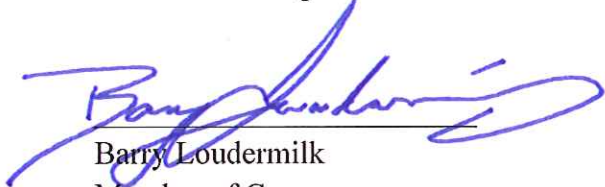
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



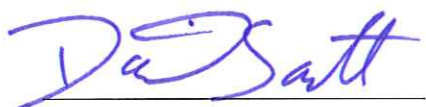
A. Drew Ferguson, IV DMD
Member of Congress



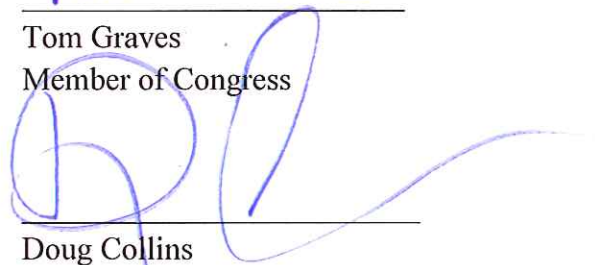
Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress



Tom Graves
Member of Congress



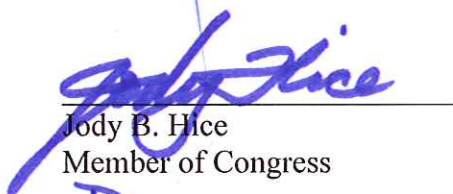
David Scott
Member of Congress



Doug Collins
Member of Congress



Rob Woodall
Member of Congress



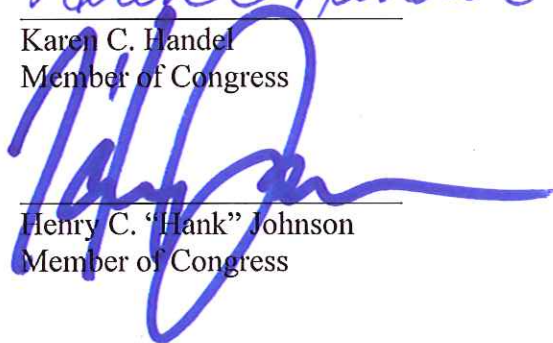
Jody B. Hice
Member of Congress



Karen C. Handel
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
Member of Congress